

11 September 1978

Mr. Edward Nichols  
Associate Editor  
The San Diego Union  
Post Office Box 191  
San Diego, California 92112

Dear Ed:

Admiral Turner has asked me to thank  
you for your letter of August 24th, and for  
extra copies of the interview which appeared  
in the Union.

Enclosed is the inscribed photograph  
you requested--the Admiral much appreciates  
the extra copy.

Sincerely,

8/24/78

Herbert E. Hetu

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# Soviet Harassment Of Americans Reflects New Flowering Of Arrogance

Adm. Stansfield Turner, U.S. director of central intelligence, pointed out several signs of continuing Soviet pressure against the United States in an exclusive interview with editors of *The San Diego Union*.

Turner's comments focused on the latest incidents of Soviet harassment of American reporters and businessmen in Moscow, the discovery of a KGB tunnel into the American Embassy and harsh prison sentences given in the latest trials of dissidents. He called the harassment of Americans an apparent response to the U.S. arrest of two Russians caught spying in this country.

The CIA director also expressed concern about what or who may be behind what he described as continuing efforts to undercut America's intelligence gathering services. He included former CIA agent Phillip Agee's threat to reveal the identities of as many overseas CIA agents as he can, saying that such a disclosure would jeopardize the lives of these agents, as well as seriously damage U.S. ability to collect needed intelligence data. The interview follows:

**Question:** Admiral, why is the Soviet Union harassing American businessmen and newspaper people in Moscow?

**Answer:** The Soviets have taken these unconscionable actions apparently in retaliation for the perfectly proper arrest of two Soviet spies who were caught in the process of spying in this country.

**Q:** What is the relationship of what's happening there to detente as a whole?

**A:** I think you have to recognize that detente has never meant that there is no competition between our countries. It has tried to dampen the military element of that competition there are bound to be ups and downs in the relationships over periods of time. I don't view this particular series of events as a major impact on detente.

**Q:** Is the KGB being more arrogant or more open?

**A:** When we discover a tunnel that the KGB has dug into the United States Embassy in Moscow and they file the protest with us, they're damned arrogant.

**Q:** What should the United States response be?

**A:** That's a question for the Secretary of State and the President.

**Q:** Do you think the trials of dissidents are going to result in harsher sentences because of the worldwide attention than otherwise would have been the case?

**A:** I think that it is very difficult to speculate on what the legal processes in the Soviet Union might do or might not do. They are certainly carefully controlled, as contrasted with our country. I don't read the sentencing of Shcharansky, for instance, as having been terribly influenced by the publicity. I think perhaps the fact that he was brought to trial was a rejoinder to the public criticism; they were showing that they were not going to let the public criticism completely control their internal domestic activities as they see them.

**Q:** Do you think the Russians will be more tough as the Soviet leader-

ship changes and Brezhnev disappears?

**A:** That's a real sixty-four dollar question. And I don't really believe there's a way to speculate in a very informed manner as to whether they will be tougher or less cooperative. Brezhnev clearly has been one of the leading exponents of detente and of SALT, so one has to be concerned whether with the loss of his influence there will be as much emphasis on those.

**Q:** Phillip Agee, the renegade CIA agent, recently announced his intentions of exposing every CIA agent abroad. How much of a danger do you regard this as being?

**A:** A very serious one and one that I can do very little about. I'd like to see you do something about it. I'm not allowed to investigate Ameri-



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cans, quite properly, but I'd like to lay before you the question for a good investigative reporter. What is going on here? We've got Agee pub-

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lishing a very smooth, expensive but free distribution publication strictly against the CIA. We've got a world youth festival in Havana with Agee on the forum and others who have been brought down for that purpose. We've got other activities in this country directly pointed at undercutting our intelligence activities. They are not cheap; somebody's behind this, somebody's funding this and moving it. I think it's insidious, but within the limits of the law I have no authority to go out and try to either find out who's doing it or to curb it.

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take us on in a military conflict is a different question. I don't think that's very likely. I think they hope they can achieve their objectives by less than military means. But I think that as long as they feel they need the leverage of military strength, they are going to continue trying to use it, and how far they will go in matching or exceeding our military capabilities will very largely depend on the resolve and the military response of the Western nations.

**Q: Do you think they are driving for superiority?**

**A:** I don't really want to answer that question that starkly because it is easy to be misunderstood. I think they are driving for a strong enough military position and enough perception around the world of their military strength that they will gain political advantage from it. They have over the last ten years gotten tremendous mileage out of a smaller, less capable force because they were coming from nowhere and challenging us.

**Q: What's happening in Cambodia today?**

**A:** Cambodia is a pawn here between the aspirations of the Vietnamese to be the dominant power in Indochina and the position of the Chinese not wanting to see an expansion of Vietnamese authority in that area. Cambodians have a very strange political regime that's very repressive and is causing problems on both of its borders to the west in Thailand and to the east in Vietnam. I think it's part of the overall settling of the political relationships in that area.

**Q: Admiral, is there a kind of battle in the administration over who will run the overall intelligence programs in the United States, the CIA, the DIA or any number of other military intelligence agencies?**

**A:** There's no battle. The President on Jan. 25 of this year in a new executive order laid out exactly how it was to be done and I've seen no resistance to it since he signed that. The President decreed that I would be in charge of all the budgets of the national intelligence activities. I would also be in charge of what we call tasking all of the national intelligence assets, telling them what information they are to collect. But he did not put me in charge of the interpretation, the analysis of the information collected. We want competing analysis but we don't want a lot of competition — three spies going to the same place to do the same thing, or two expensive collection systems that overlap unnecessarily.

**Q: Criticism of U.S. intelligence support arose over the Cuban role in the Katangan invasion of Zaïre. One was that CIA intelligence was faulty; two, was that CIA intelligence was misused; and three, was that you and the President don't talk to each other often enough. Are any of these correct?**

**A:** I talk to the President once a week at least. That is, I have a scheduled appointment with him once a week, and I think that's often enough, plus such ad hoc things as Cabinet meetings.

**Q: But he didn't know, for example, that you were testifying in a**



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congressional committee, as I recall.

**A:** No, that isn't it. He didn't know I went to see Senator Clark on a related matter. I was directed by the National Security Council to go see Senator Clark because we were laying out for the President all the alternatives he had. One of them could have involved the Clark amendment. We needed a first hand interpretation of what the amendment meant before we decided on the alternative to present to the President. On the Katangan situation, I was daily supplying the President with written briefings which included Katanga. I believe that the record will show that there was no conflict between my briefings to him and what he was saying in the public forum.

**Q: Several weeks ago one of your predecessors, Mr. Colby, said in a speech, that he felt that because of the tremendous poverty in Mexico and the doubling of population there in the next 20 or so years, that Mexico represents a potentially tremendous threat to the security of our country. How do you feel about that?**

**A:** I hadn't heard that Bill had put it in those terms, but it's very indicative of one of the changes, the challenges that we face in the intelligence organizations of our country today. We have to deal not only with Soviet missile threat, we have to deal with population, immigration, natural resources exchange problems between us and a country as close to us as Mexico. Clearly, the illegal immigration problem between us and Mexico is a very im-

portant one that you here in San Diego are much closer to than most of us. And we have to hope that we can work out ways such that with the growing affluence of the Mexican economy through its oil and gas finds that they will be able to channel those resources into ways that will prevent this immigration from being necessary. I don't view it in quite as cataclysmic terms as Bill, but I certainly think that we have to be very alert to working with the Mexicans to solve these problems amicably and I think that President Carter has particularly made an effort to work closely with President Lopez Portillo.

**Q: Who's in charge of counter-intelligence program along the Mexican-American borders, the CIA or the FBI?**

**A:** The CIA conducts counter-intelligence outside the United States, the